



## 3<sup>rd</sup> Five Nations Beef Alliance Young Ranchers Program

The third FNBA Young Ranchers Program took place in Mexico on October 16-21, 2011 in conjunction with the Five Nations Beef Alliance Conference and Tour.

It was a successful experience for all participants, the young and the not so young.

Nine young producers from four different countries participated in the event:

Canada:

Fawn Jackson (CCA staff)

Lyndsay Smith

Sheldon Kyle

México:

Oswaldo Cházaro Jr.

New Zealand:

Richard Morrison

United States:

Holly Foster

John W. Wood

Ansen Pond

James Mortensen



James Mortensen, Fawn Jackson, Ansen Pond, Holly Foster, Lyndsay Smith, Richard Morrison, J.W. Wood, Oswaldo Cházaro and Sheldon Kyle

The interaction of the young producers with the leaders of their national organizations was one of the most important aspects of the program.



“.....for me it was a good opportunity to witness the format of international trade negotiations and see the common ground like minded countries have”, said Richard Morrison from New Zealand.

Ansen Pond from Texas stated: “The most interesting part of the program was seeing the minds of our leaders at work”.

Oswaldo Cházaro (México) appreciated “...*platicar cara a cara con los líderes de la Alianza, participar en las mesas redondas y tener voz en el programa de Jóvenes Ganaderos*” (..talking face to face with the Alliance leaders, participating in the round table discussions and having a voice in the Young Ranchers Program).

For Canadian Sheldon Kyle... “the ability to expand my global network of like minded young agriculturists is invaluable”.

The program included a Round Table discussion hosted at the Canadian Embassy in Mexico City where the young participants presented a summary of the current status, challenges and opportunities of the cattle industry in their respective countries and a description of their own operations.

Two days of ranch, field and cultural visits in the State of Yucatan gave the group the chance to learn about cattle ranching in the tropics and the culture/history of southern Mexico.



Young Ranchers Group with Jorge Diaz, owner of “Yodzonot Ranch”



Visiting San Rafael Ranch owned by Mr. Charruf and Diego Monge



Cebu cattle at San Rafael Ranch

The young producers actively participated in the actual FNBA Conference in Cancun on the last two days of the program. The main topics in the agenda were:

- Sustainable beef production
- National Animal ID and Traceability programs,
- International Standards
- Expansion of the Alliance
- Young Ranchers Program

They addressed the conference presenting the results of their round table and their points of view regarding the future of the Young Ranchers Program. This was fully supported by the leaders and it was agreed that this program would continue to be held in conjunction with FNBA conference.

Canada will host the next FNBA Conference and Young Ranchers Program in September 2012.



Special thanks to the Canadian Embassy in Mexico City for hosting the YR Round Table and to the Mexican cattlemen's organization, CNOG (Confederacion Nacional de Organizaciones Ganaderas) for hosting and organizing an excellent and most interesting program.